

Scoping Meeting Comments

Themes and Summary

Event Overview

In June, King County hosted three meetings to kick off the master planning and scoping for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Eastside Rail Corridor:

Woodinville Open House

Thursday, June 18, 2015
Carol Edwards Center
6 – 8 p.m.

Renton Open House

Tuesday, June 23, 2015
Talbot Hill Elementary
6 – 8 p.m.

Bellevue Open House

Thursday, June 25, 2015
Bellevue City Hall
6 – 8 p.m.

Meetings were organized in an open house format with the purpose of providing residents with an overview of the trail master planning process, project timeline, and environmental process. The event was also designed to seek input from attendees on trail design concepts, gather feedback on how attendees envisioned using the trail, and answer any questions attendees had about the master planning process.

The combined events welcomed more than 75 participants, and gathered 315 comments and individual pieces of feedback between June 8 and July 17, including:

- 134 public comment forms and letters
- 7 agency comment letters
- 112 comments on trail design concepts
- 9 comments on how the project team characterized trail segments
- 19 comments on trail design principles
- 21 comments on the EIS scoping
- 13 general feedback responses



Bellevue meeting participants complete comment forms online.

Questions

King County asked several questions to prompt feedback from meeting participants and people who submitted comment forms online.

Comment Form

- Are there any special considerations King County should take into account while designing trail alternatives?
- The EIS will address potential impacts to ecological resources, neighboring residents and business, traffic patterns and access, as well as safety considerations. What issues are important to you? Are there additional issues we should evaluate in the EIS?
- People use trails for recreation, exercise, commuting to work or school, running local errands, and visiting friends and family. How do you envision using this regional trail?

Other Questions

- Event attendees were shown photos of each trail segment (South, Central, and North) and were asked to provide input on connections and areas of interest.
- Attendees were given a list of Trail Design Principles and were asked to provide feedback on which principles mattered most to them.
- Attendees were shown images of other trail designs and were asked to provide input on what they liked and did not like.
- Attendees were provided a map of the Puget Sound Region that included the Eastside Rail Corridor and surrounding trails. They were asked to draw their current and prospective routes.



Renton meeting participants tour stations and provide feedback



Trail design concept photos with participant comments at Woodinville Scoping Meeting

Comment Themes

Overall, comments and feedback were positive and highlighted opportunities the trail would bring. Three high-level themes emerged:

Connections and Access

- Connect to other regional trails, local trails, parks, transit, and other modes of transportation.
- Promote economic development through connections and access to local businesses.
- Provide appropriate and plentiful access points and parking.

Safety

- Minimize the potential for conflicts between drivers and trail users at intersections.
- Minimize the potential for conflicts between high-speed cyclists and other trail users.
- Create wayfinding signage.
- Increase security for trail users and adjacent property owners along the trail through the use of such features as lighting and fencing.

The Built and Natural Environment

- Protect the environment and natural habitats by maintaining trees and vegetation for existing wildlife.
- Maintain views.
- Protect privacy and quality of life for neighbors.
- Consider compatibility of adjacent land uses when imagining the multiple uses in the corridor.
- Provide amenities, such as lighting, landscaping, signage, bathrooms, water fountains, and waste bins that create a comfortable trail.
- Limit the potential for increase noise from trail usage, especially where the trail is in close proximity to homes and neighboring communities.



Renton meeting participants map route on regional trails map



Bellevue meeting participants tour stations and provide feedback



Woodinville meeting participants map routes on regional trails map